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NORTHALLERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

by Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector
for the year ending 31st December 1943.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - J.A.HUTCHINSON M.D.M.S. M.R.C.S.

SANITARY INSPECTOR - H. TEMPLEMAN A.R.S.I. C.R.S.I (Cert. Meat and Other Foods).

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The general health of your area has been quite good throughout the past year. We had no serious outbreak of infectious disease. A mild epidemic of measles occurred during the early months of the year, 43 cases were notified, all were treated at home and all recovered. 119 Births and 116 deaths were registered; these are fairly average figures for your District.

Except for the completion of 14 new houses for Agricultural Workers no new structural work was undertaken by the Council. We have now provided 56 new working class dwellings and the provision of a further 54 is contemplated. Existing Sanitary works have been maintained in good working order. The usual inspections in consequence of complaints and outbreaks of infectious diseases have been carried out and work done recorded; details are given in Mr. Templeman's report appended. Water supplies both private and parochial and scavenging have required a good deal of attention and difficulties were considerable owing to continuous drought and severe shortage of labour. Conditions regarding water supply and the need for priority claims have been dealt with in special reports to the Ministry.

STATISTICS.

An estimated population at the middle of 1943 yields Death rate and Birth rate as below:-

Deaths 116 Males 64, Females 52 - a death rate of 15.3
Average age at death 57.2 years.

Infant mortality i.e. death under 1 year 10. Of these 6 lived only a few days.
In previous reports attention has been drawn to the circumstances that we have here a large proportion of quite elderly persons while the younger people drift away to neighbouring towns; and this has been very noticable during recent years owing to lack of work at the linen mills largely due to difficulty in obtaining yarn.

Live Births. 119 61 males and 58 females giving a birth rate of 14.87.

Illegitimate births - 5; an increase on last year but below the average for a lengthy period.

NUTRITION.

Owing to moderate restrictions in the supply of food stuffs, especially fats, and other war time disturbances slight loss of weight by adults as compared with peacetime is observable. In regard to children, they appear to be quite as well and thriving if not better than before; this is due to the facilities provided by the Education Department. I am indebted to Mr. Barraclough for these figures - Children taking milk during school hours 583 - Children taking meals 230.

IMMUNISATION.

86 (estimated) children were immunised during the past year. The estimated percentage of children who have completed the treatment are children over 5 - 95% under 5, only 65. There have been very few refusals for children attending school. Clinics have been held and much help has been given by nurses and teachers with so far poor results in regard to the under five years of age.

INCIDENCE and CONTROL of INFECTIOUS DISEASES during 1943.

79 notifications were received; of these 43 were measles and 19 whooping cough; 5 scarlet favor; 9 pneumonia; 2 erysipelas and 2 diphtherias who had not been immunised. These figures relate to our own children. In addition we have had to deal, in hospital, with 72 Army cases. These were measles 14; chicken pox 5, mumps 17, rubella 6, diphtherias 18 (one fatal, unimmunised) scarlet fever 11 and 1 Cerebro Spinal Fever. Of the pneumonias 4 were very young children registered as Broncho Pneumonia. 13 Adult cases were treated in the Rutson Hospital and all recovered; several of these had not been notified as pneumonia before admission. Infected households were visited and inspected in regard to sanitation; verbal and printed instructions together with disinfectants were given to those in charge of infected households. No return cases were reported. Admissions are brought in by Matron or nurse. Ambulance service has been satisfactory. Below is a Table of age incidence of cases notified:-

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
other than Tuberculosis.

	Under 1 year	1/2	2/3	3/4	4/5	5/10	10/15	15/20	20/35	35/45	45/60	Over 60	All ages
Measles		2	2	5	5	15	7	3	2		2		43 Measles.
Diphtheria		1				1							2 Diphtheria
Scarlet Fever.				1		3			1				5 Scarlet Fever
Pneumonia		2				1				2	4		9 Pneumonia
Whooping Cough.		1		1		1				1			4 Whooping Cough.
Erysipilas										1	1		2 Erysipilas

NOTE. Many cases of Measles and of Whooping Cough occurred and were not given medical care, but were notified to me as absent from school on account of these ailments.

MILK PRODUCTION.

There appears to be a fairly general impression that responsibility for proper methods, equipment, water supply and other sanitary conditions to be observed in the production of clean milk had been largely taken over by the War Agricultural Executive Committee. This is not so - At present responsibility remains fully with the local authority. A parliamentary Bill dealing with the matter is however said to be pending. Meanwhile the War Agricultural Executive Committee is acting as an advisory authority only, although anxious all the time to be of as much service as possible.

MILK.

There is little to add to details already given in recent annual reports concerning milk production here. There has however been a notable reduction of complaints by Medical Officers of Health of districts receiving milk from your area. This is probably largely due to new and increased pasteurising plant at the "Dried Milk Products" dairy factory at Romanby where two new high temperature short term plants have been installed. Weekly samples are now taken and submitted to bacterial examination by Dr. Goddie at the Emergency Laboratory. For some months past all reports have been returned as satisfactory. 16 thousand gallons are being sent out daily from the Dairy. Although all this milk has been pasteurised it is not all sold as designated milk. The most pressing requirement for pure milk production is a satisfactory water supply. Appended is information kindly furnished by Mr. A.L.Mullen Divisional Inspector relating to incidence for tuberculosis in dairy herds.

" With reference to your request of the 20th July. In the "Northallerton Rural District during 1943 there were 609 herds "clinically inspected in accordance with the Milk and Dairies "Order.

" There were 23 cattle slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order. "On postmortem examination they were found to be suffering from

" Tuberculosis of the udder ..	3.
" Otherwise affected	20.

" There was no outbreak of Anthrax in Northallerton Rural District during 1943."

MEAT.

As already reported there are now no private slaughter houses here. Butchers shops and motors are on the whole satisfactorily kept, but more frequent applications of lime wash is desirable.

BAKERY.

One only in this area; satisfactory.

THE BRITISH RESTAURANT as at March 31st.

Is still much patronised and still pays it way although it has been found necessary to increase somewhat the charges e.g.

Meat from 6d to 7d and sweets 2d to 3d

Number of Meals or portions served during 1943:-

Soups	2076
Meat	30123
Sweets	29742
Teas	23316
Sundries	18766

The Restaurant continues under the able and voluntary management of Mrs Godman whose services are highly appreciated.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Scavenging. Owing to continuously increasing costs in scavenging by contract, and failure to obtain any tender at all for some of your townships the Council had to undertake much of this work by providing a motor and three wholetime men which have afforded much relief. This force however will require to be supplemented as soon as practicable. Privy Ashpits are now obsolete and are largely replaced by pan closets which require frequent calls by the scavenger and failure to afford this results in serious nuisance and justifiable complaint.

In this connection it is to be realised that when the approved scheme for a piped water supply to the major part of your District is carried out there will be a demand for the adoption of a water carriage system for your larger villages necessitating the provision of some form of Sewage Disposal work.

SCHOOLS.

Sanitation at Schools (16) within your district remains as previously described except that pan closets at Brompton and Romanby are now cleared weekly by the Council's men and motor. Other schools are dea lt with by arrangement with local farmers. Romanby Brompton and Osmotherley have piped water supplies; other schools depend on well water for the time being.

During 1943 by permission of the Education Authorities Clinics were arranged at some of the Schools for the immunisation of younger children whose parents had been warned by the District Nurses; resulting attendances were very disappointing. I am indebted to Mr. Barraclough for the following information concerning milk and meals provided at schools:-

"Children attending schools in the Northallerton Rural District

Children taking milk	-	518
Children taking meals	-	110

" The comparatively small number of children taking meals is "due to the fact that a hot mid-day meal is at present only "provided at one school in the Rural District namely Brompton "Council School. It will be appreciated of course, that in "addition to the figures given above a number of children from "the Rural District attend Allertonshire Senior School in the Northallerton Urban District and receive milk and meals. The "approximate numbers are 65 taking milk and 120 taking meals, "making a total for the Rural District of milk 583 and meals 230"

It was not necessary to close any school or exclude any classes throughout the year on account of infectious diseases.

JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

There was no change in regard to staff, structure or equipment throughout the past year. The roadway and paths are in much need of renovation and a further coat of paint is desirable. 152 cases were under treatment during 1943. Of these 62 were civilian and 85 members of the Forces.

Civilian cases comprised 17 Diphtherias (none had been immunised) 11 Scarlet Fever and 2 Cerebro Spinal Fever.

Military cases included 18 Diphtherias, 10 Scarlet Fevers 1 Cerebro Spinal Fever, 5 Chicken Pox, 17 Mumps, 6 Rubella, and 28 measles. Two of the Diphtherias unhappily proved fatal from heart failure. It was necessary to tramsfer one case of measles in order to secure satisfactory isolation. A child with nasal diphtheria required prolonged treatment before two successive negative swabs were obtained. It has not been possible to obtain full domestic staff. Cooking has been done by Matron. No return cases have been reported.

In addition to the above 13 cases were treated for pneumonia in the Rutson Hospital and all made good recoveries; several of these were admitted to Hospital before being notified as pneumonias.

I have the honour to be Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

J.A.HUTCHINSON.

M.O.H.